

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS
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			26 SEPT 65	DBB 60934 FBI

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Federal Bureau of Investigation OCT 5 1966

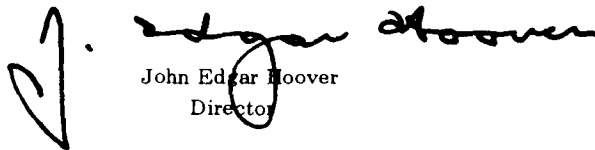
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

ATTENTION: Deputy Director, Plans

Dear Sir:

- ☒ 1. For your information, I am enclosing communications which may be of interest to you.
- ☐ 2. No further investigation is contemplated with regard to this matter.
- ☒ 3. You will be advised of the pertinent developments in connection with this inquiry.
- ☐ 4. Please note change in caption of this case.
- ☐ 5. Status of case: ☐ Completed ☐ Incomplete

Very truly yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc. 2

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

CONFIDENTIAL 60934

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

September 26, 1966

✓ [5] Heinrichs W. Bagatais
Internal Security - R - Latvia

Heinrichs W. Bagatais, also known as Henry Bagatais, advised Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on September 8, 1966, that he had been born on September 12, 1919, at Balvi, Latvia, and was a naturalized citizen of the United States. He indicated that his father was Andrejs Bagatais, who had died in a Russian prison in 1940, shortly after Latvia had been occupied by the Russians; while his mother was Emma Bagatais, age 77, who currently resided at 1 Cook Avenue, Connley Vale, Sydney, Australia. According to Bagatais, his mother lived with his sister, Lucia Senkolovics, and his sister's two daughters, who were now 22 and 23 years of age, respectively.

Bagatais said that he had a brother, Janis Bagatais, who had also lived in Australia, but this brother had been killed in an automobile accident.

Bagatais related that he, as well as his brother Janis, had fought in the Latvian Legion of the German Army during World War II. According to Bagatais, he had been wounded and lost his left arm on April 9, 1945, at Koenigsberg, Germany, which is now part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, when a Russian soldier, who was standing on a rooftop had thrown a hand grenade into the midst of his group. He was captured by the Russians, who believed his story that he was a German, since he spoke fluent German and he was returned to Germany by the Russians after the War. He believed that his disability had been the chief reason for his having been returned to Germany, as the Russians were not prone to keep disabled prisoners of war, who would have been too much of a liability to them.

Bagatais indicated that he had been reunited with his mother, sister Lucia, and brother Janis, in Germany, and they all had gone to Australia from Germany following World War II. He said that he also would have gone to Australia with them, but he had been refused entry due to his disability. Instead, Bagatais came to the United States, but he subsequently visited his immediate family in Australia for about one month in late 1959.

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Heinrichs W. Bagatais

Bagatais added that approximately three years ago he had gone to Australia with the full intention of living there permanently, but, after discovering that a man with his disability could not make any money there, he had returned to the United States.

Bagatais related that he had no immediate relatives currently living in Latvia, but he did have an aunt, Mrs. Helena Biridis, who resided in Balvi, Latvia; and he had corresponded with, and sent food packages to, Milda Berzins, who is the first wife of his brother, Janis, and her son, who is also named Henry Bagatais, both of whom now reside in Ogre Madliena, a small village in Latvia.

Bagatais stated that he had never been a member of the Communist Party at any time and he was not aware that any member of his immediate family had ever been a Communist Party member. At this point he emphasized that his father had died in a Russian prison.

Bagatais denied that he had ever been approached by anyone known by him to be connected with Soviet intelligence.

Bagatais continued that he had never visited the Soviet Mission to the United Nations in New York City, and he indicated that he knew no Latvians from Soviet Latvia who had ever been attached to the Soviet Mission to the United Nations in New York City.

Bagatais further advised that he had never subscribed to, or distributed, "Dzimtenes Balss" ("Voice of the Homeland"), although he had from time to time received unsolicited single issues of "Dzimtenes Balss".

A characterization of "Voice of the Homeland" is contained in the appendix attached hereto under the caption, "Soviet Committee on Cultural Relations with Compatriots Abroad".

Bagatais added that from time to time he also had received unsolicited single issues of the Latvian language newspaper, "Amerikas Latvietis" ("American Latvian"), from Boston, Massachusetts, which Bagatais believed to be a Communist newspaper.

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Heinrichs W. Bagatais

A characterization of "Amerikas Latvietis" is contained in the appendix attached hereto.

Bagatais also advised that he was a current member of the Daugavas Vanagi and had served previously in the past as the President of the New York Chapter of the Daugavas Vanagi on two separate occasions, but he was only an inactive member at the present time.

A characterization of Daugavas Vanagi is contained in the appendix attached hereto.

Bagatais indicated that his inactivity in Daugavas Vanagi dated back to his return to the United States from his last trip to Australia about three years ago, when vicious rumors were circulated in Latvian circles that he was a Russian spy and for this reason had plenty of money which enabled him to be taking world-wide trips.

Bagatais thought that it was best that he avoid these vicious rumors by not attending meetings of the Daugavas Vanagi, as he was deeply hurt by them, particularly since he had given so much of himself in the fight against Communism; and he truly wished to see the liberation of his native Latvia from Soviet domination.

The following is a physical description of Bagatais, as obtained through interview and observation on September 8, 1966:

Name	Heinrichs W. Bagatais also known as Henry Bagatais
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	September, 12, 1919
Place of Birth	Balvi, Latvia
Residence	412 Cathedral Parkway, New York City
Height	5 feet 11 inches
Weight	200 pounds
Build	Heavy
Hair	Sandy - bald on top
Eyes	Blue

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Heinrichs W. Bagatais

Complexion:
Scars and Marks

Employment

Immediate Relations

Fair

Left arm amputated - wears
an artificial hand

International Flavors and
Fragrances, Incorporated,
521 West 57th Street, New
York City

Father: Andrejs Bagatais
(Deceased)

Mother: Emma Bagatais
1 Cook Avenue,
Connley Vale, Sydney,
Australia

Brother: Janis Bagatais
(Deceased)

Sister: Lucia Senkolovics,
1 Cook Avenue,
Connley Vale, Sydney,
Australia

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APPENDIX

"AMERIKAS LATVIETIS" ("AMERICAN LATVIAN")

A confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on September 13, 1965, that "Amerikas Latvietis" ("American Latvian") is a Latvian semi-monthly newspaper published by the Baltica Publishing Company, 64 Bartlett Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts 02119, with its mailing address listed as Post Office Box 23, Roxbury, Massachusetts 02119.

According to this source, this newspaper has printed and continues to print articles dealing with various phases of life in the Soviet Union, Soviet Latvia and other Soviet countries, which articles extoll life there, as well as contributions made by the Bolshevik regime everywhere.

This confidential source indicated that although this newspaper does not proclaim itself to be a Communist publication it repeatedly attacks, criticizes and ridicules many of the achievements of the United States and the Western World and consistently condemns United States foreign policy throughout the world, as well as the United States Government's handling of many domestic issues.

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APPENDIX

DAUGAVAS VANAGI (DV)

A confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the Daugavas Vanagi (DV) (Falcons of Daugava) was an organization of former Latvian soldiers who fought as a unit with the Germans against the Russians in 1943 - 1944, and became known as the Latvian Legion. According to this confidential source, after World War II, these veterans organized themselves into a veterans' organization known as the DV.

This confidential source continued that the purposes of this organization were the same as those generally associated with veterans' organizations, such as fraternalism, mutual aid and assistance, and to arrange for the care of those veterans who had been wounded or disabled during the Russian campaign.

This confidential source advised that the headquarters of the DV, known as the Central Board of Officers, was established in Germany, as most of the Latvian Legionnaires, and practically all of the disabled veterans, were located in Germany. However, many of the able veterans emigrated to other countries, where they organized local branches of the DV.

This confidential source indicated that, during the years immediately following World War II, because of the Latvian Legion's association with the German Army, the members of the Legion were excluded from entering the United States as Displaced Persons. However, in about 1950, some Latvians in the United States, who were sympathetic toward the Latvian Legionnaires and their organization, DV, as well as the DV's efforts to assist disabled Latvian veterans, began to form informal groups throughout the United States, which groups eventually became known as the Falcons of Daugava or DV.

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DAUGAVAS VANAGI (DV) (Contd.)

This confidential source explained that, even though the Latvian Legion had fought alongside the German forces, many patriotic Latvians did not regard the Latvian Legion as German collaborators, but rather as Latvian heroes, who had fought the Russians, not for the purpose of assisting the Germans in any manner whatsoever, but for the sole purpose of fighting Communism and preventing the Russians from invading Latvia. The fact that, at the same time, the Germans were also fighting a war of their own with the Russians, was regarded as coincidental, and the alliance between the Latvian Legion and the German forces was generally regarded as one of necessity, rather than desire.

This confidential source said that, in 1951, the restrictions against former members of the Latvian Legion entering the United States were lifted. As a result, a number of these Legionnaires came to the United States and joined the various informal groups of DV, which had already been established. In addition to these groups, they also formed a number of new branches. However, since there were not enough actual members of the Latvian Legion to create an effective organization, about one year previously, membership in the United States organization of the DV was opened to all Latvians, both men and women, regardless of whether or not they had been actual fighting members of the Latvian Legion in Latvia. This confidential source estimated that, at that time, there were about 15 to 20 branches in various parts of the United States, with a membership of from 400 to 600, and all of the branches were known by the same name, that is, DV or the Falcons of Daugava.

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DAUGAVAS VANAGI (DV) (Contd.)

This confidential source continued that regular meetings of the DV were held and an intra-organizational bulletin was published. Principal activities consisted of social affairs, such as picnics, dances, and other functions, all held for the purpose of raising money to be sent to Germany, where it was to be used for the care of veterans of the Latvian Legion, who had been wounded and disabled in the Russian campaign.

This confidential source stated that the DV was militantly anti-Communist and supported all activities tending toward the eventual liberation of Latvia from Soviet Union.

A second confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, has advised that the second largest and most active Latvian organization in the United States is the DV, a Latvian veterans' organization, which is anti-Communist.

According to this second confidential source, the DV has about 55 branches, and the majority of heads of the branches are former career Latvian Army officers.

DBB 66934

Heinrichs W. Bagatais

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SOVIET COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL
RELATIONS WITH COMPATRIOTS ABROAD

According to a source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, the Soviet Committee on Cultural Relations with Compatriots Abroad (formerly known as Committee for a Return to the Homeland and the Development of Cultural Relations with Compatriots Abroad) is a Soviet propaganda organization founded in East Berlin, Germany, in 1955; and, since that time, has been headed by various Soviet officials.

The Committee publishes a magazine entitled "Homeland," and a newspaper, "Voice of the Homeland," in the Russian, Byelorussian, Estonian, Ukrainian, Georgian, and other related languages. Such publications, which are mailed to numerous persons having a family origin in countries now under Soviet domination, attempt to entice such individuals to return to their homeland; to praise the accomplishments of the current government of their individual countries of origin; and to attack and vilify generally the activities, leaders and mores of countries in the free world.

Issue Number 47 for July, 1963, of the publication "Voice of the Homeland," noted the Committee has adopted the name Soviet Committee on Cultural Relations with Compatriots Abroad.